AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition comprising

(i) gelatin and

(ii) hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof,

wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or derivative thereof is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) hyaluronic acid (HA) or derivative thereof, and wherein said composition is cross-linked and sterilized with dry heat at 110-200°C, and wherein said composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative is a salt or an ester of hyaluronic acid (HA).

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at the most 90% (w/w) of said gelatin.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge, wherein said sponge absorbs less water than an absorbable gelatin sponge.

11. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 10, wherein the ratio between the water absorbed by the haemostatic sponge according to claim 10 and the water absorbed by a conventional absorbable gelatin sponge is at the most 0.95.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the haemostatic sponge is covered by a top sheet.

15. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 14, wherein the top sheet is removable.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is dry.

18. (Currently amended) A haemostatic paste prepared by pre-wetting the haemostatic composition according to claim 1 with a liquid to create said paste, wherein said haemostatic composition is in the form of a powder or flakes.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting haemostasis in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying the haemostatic composition according to claim 1, or the paste according to claim 18, onto at least a portion of an area where bleeding is present.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) A method of delivering an agent to an intended local site of a patient, said method comprising the step of including the agent in the composition of claim 1, or in the paste of claim 18, and delivering the agent to the local site of the patient.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for arresting bleeding in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying to the site of bleeding the haemostatic composition according to claim 1 or the paste according to claim 18.

23. (Withdrawn / Currently amended) A method for producing a cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition comprising the steps of:

i) mixing a biologically absorbable material and hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof, and a solvent, and

ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 23, wherein said method comprises a further step of drying the mixture obtained in step i) before treating the mixture with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C according to step ii).

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn/ Currently amended) A method for preparing the haemostatic composition according to claim 17, said method comprising the steps of:

i) mixing gelatin, hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, and a solvent; ~~and~~

ii) cross-linking said composition with dry heat at 110-200°C; and

iii) drying said mixture.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23, wherein the mixing of the biologically absorbable material, hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, and a solvent is performed by any of the following alternatives:

a) mixing a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof and subsequently adding a solvent;
b) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof;
c) mixing a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof;
d) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said mixing is performed under mechanical influence.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Withdrawn / Currently amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein the biologically absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of gelatin[[,]] and collagen~~, chitin, chitosan, alginate, cellulose, oxidised cellulose, oxidised regenerated cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), polyglycolic acid, polyacetic acid, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof~~.

36. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is provided in the form of a gel.

37. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed at a temperature from about 20°C to about 40°C, or at about 30°C.

38. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is conducted for about 6 to about 24 hours, or for about 16 hours.

39. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 24 or 27, wherein said drying is performed by freeze-drying.

40. (Currently amended) A cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

i) mixing a biologically absorbable material and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, and a solvent, and

ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C,

wherein said composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

41. (Withdrawn) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27 wherein said mixing is performed by whipping, stirring, spinning, static mixing, motionless mixing or centrifugation.

42. (Currently amended) A cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition by cross-linking by using dry heat at 110-200°C, and wherein said composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 85% (w/w).

49. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 80% (w/w).

50. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 75% (w/w).

51. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 70% (w/w).

52. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 65% (w/w).

53. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 5, wherein said amount of gelatin is at the most 60% (w/w).

54. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 15% (w/w).

55. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 20% (w/w).

56. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 25% (w/w).

57. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 30% (w/w).

58. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 35% (w/w).

59. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 40% (w/w).

60. (Canceled)

61. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) is physically cross-linked.

62. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) has a pH value in the range of from 5 to 9.

63. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative is a hyaluronate salt of hyaluronic acid.

64-85. (Canceled)

86. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

87. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

88. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

89. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

90. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

91. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 40, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

92. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge.

93. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of a powder.

94. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 42, wherein said composition is in the form of flakes.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Canceled)

97. (Canceled)

98. (Canceled)

99. (Canceled)

100. (Canceled)

101. (Previously presented) A cross-linked and sterile haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) and at most 90% (w/w), and wherein said gelatin is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) and at most 90% (w/w), and wherein said composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

102. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof is incorporated into said haemostatic composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w) hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, and wherein said haemostatic composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

103. (Previously presented) A sterile haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is stabilized with dry heat at 110-200°C, and wherein said haemostatic composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

104. (Previously presented) A haemostatic composition comprising gelatin and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof is incorporated into said haemostatic composition to a final content of at least 10% (w/w)

hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, and wherein said haemostatic composition is stabilized with dry heat, and wherein said haemostatic composition does not comprise a chemical cross-linking agent or residues thereof.

105. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-104, wherein said composition is in the form of a sponge, powder or flakes.

106. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 105, wherein said composition is in the form of a haemostatic sponge and wherein said sponge absorbs less water than an absorbable gelatin sponge.

107. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-104, wherein said composition comprises at the most 80% (w/w) of said gelatin.

108. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-104, wherein said hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, is incorporated into said composition to a final content of at least 20% (w/w).

109. (Currently amended) The haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-102[[104]], wherein said composition is treated with dry heat.

110. (Previously presented) The haemostatic composition according to claim 1, wherein said dry heat treatment at 110-200°C is conducted for 15 minutes to 6 hours.

111. (New) A method for promoting haemostasis in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying the haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-104, onto at least a portion of an area where bleeding is present.

112. (New) A method of delivering an agent to an intended local site of a patient, said method comprising the step of including the agent in the composition of any of claims 101-104, and delivering the agent to the local site of the patient.

113. (New) A method for arresting bleeding in an individual in need thereof, said method comprising the step of applying to the site of bleeding the haemostatic composition according to any of claims 101-104.